

Switching

An Author's Purpose/Point of View Strategy

Switching (McLaughlin & DeVogd, 2004) is a strategy that can help show biases in the text as well as make the reader more aware of the author's intention. Some of the switches are:

1. Gender switch--Change the sex of the main characters.
2. Theme switch--Make up a different story with the opposite theme: example 'peace is good' to 'force is good'.
3. Setting switch--Tell the story from a different time, place, or social class.
4. Body-Style switch--Change main character body: fat to thin or tall to short
5. Clothing switch--Change main character clothing: preppy, gang, formal, hip-hop.
6. Emotion switch--Imagine a story in which the characters have a different emotional tone: calm and thoughtful or cracking jokes all the time.
7. Ethnic/Race switch--Change characters' race/ethnic characteristics.
8. Language switch--Use accents, vocabulary, and expressions from somewhere different, such as another country, a university, or a region of the country.
9. Relationship/Organization switch--if the main characters are friends, change to family members, enemies, etc.
10. Alternative Texts (McLaughlin & DeVogd, 2004) represent a perspective that is different from the one the reader is reading, such as a character substitution, where the reader replaces an existing character with a new character that has a different personality.
11. A character perspective, in which the reader examines the motives of different characters and reorients the facts of the story to fit the desires of one character.

